

Fire Heavily Damages Torrance High Gym

(Story in Column 1)

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INSPECT DAMAGE . . . Dr. Harold Klonecky, assistant principal at Torrance High School, and Howard Towle, a physical education instructor and football coach, inspect damage to the roof of the Boys' Gymnasium following a fire over the weekend. The

fire, believed to have been deliberately set, burned away about a third of the roof. Damage has been estimated at from \$25,000 to \$50,000 by Torrance firefighters. The blaze broke out shortly after midnight Friday. (Press-Herald Photo by Hal Fisher)

Arson Suspected

Damage May Hit \$50,000

A major fire in the Boys' Gymnasium at Torrance High School is believed by Torrance Fire Department officials to have been deliberately set, the Press-Herald has learned.

The blaze, which erupted shortly after midnight Friday, destroyed a third of the gymnasium, resulting in damage of from \$25,000 to \$50,000.

Cause of the fire is still under investigation, the Press-Herald was told yesterday. Firefighting officials have eliminated electrical shorts and related causes, it was noted.

The officials said the fire was of an "incendiary nature." Some leads have been developed in the arson investigation, but no suspects have been turned up, it was reported.

The fire completely burned away one-third of the roof. Heavy smoke and water damage also was reported. A 55-by-30-foot hole was left in the roof.

Four engine companies, a ladder truck, and a salvage unit responded to the 12:41 a.m. alarm, which was turned in by James Lockner, a Torrance High School teacher.

Lockner had returned to the campus to pick up some materials when he discovered the fire.

Dr. Carl Ahee, principal, and Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools, were on the scene.

FIREFIGHTERS said the fire was confined to the roof. However, smoke collected between the main roof and the drop ceiling which required some time to clear.

Football uniforms and other equipment also was damaged, it was reported.

The fire occurred about two hours after a football game between Torrance High and Palos Verdes had ended. The game, which ended in a 6-6 tie, was played at the Torrance High Stadium some four or five blocks from the school.

"The selections made this year are based upon good architectural planning, landscaping, and building and grounds maintenance, and how well the particular structure blends into and improves the surrounding area," Burchfield added.



THOUGHTFUL . . . Karen Durhan, a student at Bishop Montgomery High School, pensively studies her work while on a sketching day for the United Crusade Catholic Art contest. Students from all Catholic High Schools were invited to spend a day at Maryvale in San Gabriel, a United Way agency. Sketches are then translated into any art medium and the winner receives a trophy and scholarship to the Art Center College of Design. Prizes are sponsored by the Southern California Knights of Columbus.

Goals Committee Formed To Develop Master Plan

Members of the City Council subcommittee on city planning goals have come up with an elaborate plan for arriving at a final master plan for the city.

Meeting Friday, the three-man subcommittee, composed of Dr. Donald E. Wilson, chairman, and Mayor Albert Isen and Councilman Jay Beasley, decided to organize an executive research committee composed of top people from business and industry.

This research committee would have access to detailed information on development trends in the area. It would make its recommendations to a goals committee composed of 125 local citizens.

THESE 125 citizens have been tentatively selected.

The goals committee, in turn, will give its recommendations to the current Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC), which will advise the City Council and Planning Commission.

A four-man steering committee will oversee all these committee operations. This committee is composed of Dr. Wilson; George L. Lewison of the CAC; Robert Harris of the city's Planning Department; and Kenneth Uyeda of the Planning Commission.

PLANNING Director Charles Shartle said the master plan was originally slated for completion this spring. However, he now believes it will take somewhat longer.

The proposed master plan would provide a detailed

formula for the development of Torrance. It would include such points as the percentage of multiple versus single-family residences and high- and low-priced housing.

Community desires concerning open space and recreational facilities, city landscaping, the balance between residential and commercial, flood control, schools, and sewer systems would be a few of many aspects covered in the master plan.

The question of a general plan had been considered by a low-priority item until last July, when City Councilmen decided to shift the program into high gear.

Two full-time planners are currently working on the plan.

Study of Renewal Area Land Slated

Architectural Awards Lunch Set Tomorrow

Owners and designers of 11 outstanding buildings in the city will be honored tomorrow at the annual Architectural Merit Awards luncheon of the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce.

Announcement of the award winners will be made at the luncheon, to be held at the Plush Horse Restaurant, 1700 S. Pacific Coast Hwy., Redondo Beach.

William R. Burchfield, chairman of the Chamber's Architectural Awards Committee, will preside at the luncheon.

We feel that the individuals and organizations responsible for these esthetic contributions to our city are especially deserving of this recognition," he explained.

Two Torrance firms were honored earlier this year by the Los Angeles Beautiful Commission. Awards for architectural design were made to Bullock's Fashion Square and to Harper of California, a manufacturing firm located in the city's Central Manufacturing District.

Tomorrow's awards luncheon is open to the public.

FEATURED speaker at the luncheon will be Ki Suh Park, vice president of Victor Gruen Associates of Los Angeles. Park, a noted architect and city planner, will discuss "Community Planning — Its Problems and Challenges."

"The motivation behind these awards is to stimulate the community to improve itself architecturally and make Torrance a better city," Burchfield, a Torrance architect, commented.

"The selections made this year are based upon good architectural planning, landscaping, and building and grounds maintenance, and how well the particular structure blends into and improves the surrounding area," Burchfield added.

Accident Blamed on Hecklers

A careful of young hecklers is thought to have contributed to a traffic accident Sunday night on Maple Avenue near Sepulveda Boulevard.

Larry S. Patrich, 17, of 20819 S. Dalton Ave., told police he bolted his car out of a service station and smashed into a power pole and a city sign pole about 10 p.m. He said he was trying to elude a group of teenagers who had been harassing him.

Patrich sustained a lip laceration and several broken teeth, police said.

Also injured were passengers Susan Bussey, 16, of 1600 W. 203rd St., who suffered a severe thigh laceration; Frank Razanskas, 17, of 1273 Pitner Ave., who complained of head pains; and Theresa Stickler, 16, of 1617 W. 204th St., who sustained a mouth laceration, a possible fractured nose, and injured teeth.

Mail Box Toppled By Car

Misdemeanor hit-run charges were lodged against a San Pedro man early Sunday after he allegedly smashed the glass window of a beauty salon and mowed down a mail box with his car.

Arrested at 4:20 a.m. at 242nd Street and Hawthorne Boulevard was Richard J. Downing, 30, who is accused of fleeing the scene of the two mishaps before police reports could be taken.

Damaged were the window of Tress Affaire Beauty Salon, 3803 Pacific Coast Hwy., and a post office box at the corner of Pacific Coast Highway and Neece Avenue.

Land Next to Meadow Park Project Target

City Councilmen last night voted to make a study of a large undeveloped area just north of the city's Meadow Park Urban Renewal project. Councilmen hope that such a study will reveal a practical solution for zoning problems in the area and prevent blight.

The study area, located near the corner of Hawthorne and Lomita Boulevards is of particular importance due to its strategic location near the renewal area, which will be the site of a modern industrial park, and the Torrance Memorial Hospital and a major medical center, now going up.

In a communique to the council, top city management officials said, "It is our worry that this area, outside of the Hawthorne Boulevard and Lomita Boulevard frontages, is going to develop in a substandard manner. It will be especially noticeable when the Meadow Park project is finished."

"THE VALUE of the subject property will be greatly enhanced by the redevelopment project. At the same time, there will be no public improvements and no sensible integrated plan of development for the area. As a result, it is likely to develop prematurely into a slum."

The basic problem, councilmen were told, is the lack of public improvements in the area. Except for Hawthorne, Lomita, and 236th Street, there are no improved streets in the area. There are no sewers or storm drains.

The size of the lots is a

complicating factor, councilmen were told. Most of the area was subdivided many years ago into lots 30 feet by 126 feet. Most of the interior property is zoned for light manufacturing (M-1).

MANAGEMENT officials believe that the property cannot be satisfactorily developed for M-1 uses without an assembly of two or more lots in each case.

Charles Shartle, city planning director, has attempted to get the various owners together to redivide or assemble the lots, but he was unsuccessful due to the multiplicity of owners, councilmen learned.

Delving into this problem will be a committee composed of City Manager Edward J. Ferraro, City Attorney Stanley Remelmeier, and members of the council and the city Planning Commission.

IN FURTHER action, the council:

- Unanimously denied a request for variance to allow the operation of a beer bar at 3703 W. 190th St. Owners of the abandoned structure formerly known as "The Hut" desired to reopen their establishment.

- Granted a conditional use permit to allow the operation of the "Open Hearth" as a cocktail lounge with a general liquor sales license.

- Approved a conditional use permit to allow construction of a billboard west of Crenshaw Boulevard 150 feet north of Del Amo Boulevard, subject to staff approval.

Torrance Man Rescued . . .

Two men, one of them from Torrance, were rescued Monday from the Los Angeles Padres National Forest after their light plane made a forced landing. Rescued by a Los Angeles Fire Department helicopter were Irving Trunk, 43, of 2103 W. Carson St., and Bob Fitzsimmons, 37, of West Los Angeles. Trunk was the pilot of the plane, which reportedly was forced down by a downdraft. Trunk and Fitzsimmons left a note on the plane and left to find help. They were picked up by the helicopter in a nearby area. Neither man was injured.

Gardena Soldier Killed . . .

A Gardena soldier was listed this morning as killed in action in Vietnam. The Department of Defense identified him as Pfc. Kenneth F. Ybarra, son of Mr. and Mrs. Theodore B. Ybarra of 1907 W. 147th St. He was one of five Southern Californians reported killed this week.

Burglars Take Guns, Coins . . .

Burglars broke into two Torrance homes late yesterday, escaping with more than \$900 in goods. Ronald G. Carson, 27, of 3746 W. Redondo Beach Blvd., Apt. A, told police two rifles and two shotguns were taken from his apartment, along with a set of golf clubs. The burglar twisted a door knob to gain entrance, police said. The theft occurred between 4 and 6:15 p.m., it was reported. Coins valued at \$400 were taken from the home of James B. Burchiere, 50, at 508 Paseo de la Playa between 9 and 11 a.m. Burchiere, a coin dealer, said the coins ranged from pennies to half-dollars.